

Atty Docket No. 015258-017610US

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ATTENTION: Examiner Staicovici, S.  
TELEPHONE NO.:

Group Art Unit 1732

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**FOR THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF**  
**EXAMINER Staicovici, S.**

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I hereby certify that the following document(s) in re Application of ANDREAS WALDER, Application No. 09/082,309, filed May 20, 1998 for METHOD OF THE PRODUCTION OF EXPANDABLE PLASTICS GRANULATE is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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On 7/23/02

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By: LDunne

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

ANDREAS WALDER

Application No.: 09/082,309

Filed: May 20, 1998

For: METHOD OF THE PRODUCTION  
OF EXPANDABLE PLASTICS  
GRANULATE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Examiner: Staicovici, S.

Art Unit: 1732

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.193

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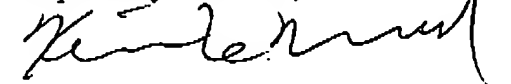
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Sir:

In response to the Examiner's "ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED  
APPEAL TO EXAMINER" of June 21, 2002, Appellant submits herewith an Appendix  
for the claims on Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX: CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1                   16. A method, which does not use extruders, for the production of  
2   expandable plastics granulate from a plastics melt and a fluid blowing agent that is, when  
3   at a pressure within a predetermined pressure range, only partly soluble in the melt, the  
4   method comprising the steps of:

5                   dispersing the blowing agent in the melt with shearing of the melt thereby  
6   creating a mixture;

7                   retaining the mixture within a predetermined pressure range for a  
8   predetermined retention time;

9                   subjecting the mixture to less shearing, with respect to the shearing during  
10   the dispersing step, during the predetermined retention time;

11                  cooling the mixture to a temperature that is above the solidification  
12   temperature of the melt;

13                  granulating the cooled mixture; and

14                  acting on the mixture with static mixer elements; and

15                  wherein the dispensing of the blowing agent and the retaining of the  
16   mixture is carried out in a single apparatus in which the mixture is acted upon  
17   continuously by means of the static mixing elements as the mixture moves through the  
18   apparatus for avoiding segregation.

1                   17. The method of claim 16 wherein the cooling is performed at least  
2   partly by components that also act on the mixture for static mixing.

1                   18. The method of claim 17 wherein the cooling is performed in a static mixer  
2   having elements crossing each other and formed as heat exchanging pipes.

1                   19. The method of claim 16 further comprising forming the mixture after  
2   cooling to form strands and chilling formed strands with a coolant.

1                   20. The method of claim 19 wherein the chilling is performed with water.

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1                   21. The method of claim 19 further comprising forming the formed  
2 strands into granules by disintegration.

1                   22. The method of claim 16 further comprising adding at least one additive to the  
2 melt.

1                   23. The method of claim 16 wherein a pressure drop during the dispersing step is  
2 larger than a pressure drop during the retaining step.

1                   24. The method of claim 23 further comprising increasing the pressure which the  
2 melt is subjected to in-between the dispersing step and the retaining step.

1                   25. The method of claim 16 wherein a pressure drop during the cooling step is  
2 larger than a pressure drop during the retaining step.

1                   26. The method of claim 25 further comprising increasing the pressure which the  
2 melt is subjected to in-between the retaining step and the cooling step.

1                   27. Canceled.

1                   28. The method of claim 16 wherein the dispersing step is performed in a  
2 first static mixer and the retaining step is performed in a second static mixer.

1                   29. The method of claim 28 further comprising pumping the mixture into  
2 a third static mixer having elements crossing each other and formed as heat exchanging  
3 pipes for performing the cooling step.

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